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call the "minimum system," and illustrations are chosen to show the great superiority of the absolute vectorial calculus over the old indirect methods of coordinates.

DAS ERKENNTNISPROBLEM IN DER PHILOSOPHIE UND WISSENSCHAFT DER NEUEREN ZEIT. Von *Ernst Cassirer*. Berlin: Bruno Cassirer, 1911. Pp. 601.

The first volume of this scholarly work of Dr. Ernst Cassirer, of the University of Berlin, has now appeared in a second edition. The author has enlarged upon and to some extent modified his views since they were presented in the first edition. The problems of thought appear to him no longer as rigid ready formations which are going to stand forever, but as instruments of thought. The absolute has disappeared, and the creations of thought appear in their historical relativity as conditioned by their time and their surroundings. The present volume has been revised and supplemented in many places, and in the second volume certain sections have been thoroughly rewritten and show considerable change of view, for instance the chapter on Gassendi.

The work begins with the age of the Renaissance, starting with Nikolaus Cusanus. It discusses in the second part the discovery of the concept of nature, and in the third part the foundation of idealism. The second volume may soon be expected.

RAZIONALISMO E MISTICISMO. Da *Michele Losacco*. Milan: Libreria Editrice Milanese, 1911. Pp. 259. Price 3.50 lire.

This is a collection of essays and sketches most of which have appeared in various Italian philosophical and literary periodicals. They show considerable familiarity with general European thought. Following an introductory essay on "Rationalism and Mysticism" the author gives first his opinion on the Origin of Natural Philosophy, then discusses in turn the revival of mysticism, the theory of objects and rationalism, rationalism and "intuitionism" including a critique of Bergson and Schmitt as representatives of the latter school. The last of the essays is a hitherto unpublished treatment of Jakob Böhme in the light of the latest criticism and his own *Aurora*.

The sketches are more diversified in object matter though most of them are more or less in the general character of reviews, and many of them are of purely local interest. Their titles are fairly indicative of their scope: "A New Book on Hegel" discusses a work now nearly four years old by the Italian B. Croce; "The Thinker Leopardi" is called forth by an Italian work of Gatti on this philosophical writer; "The Anti-Metaphysical Prejudice" is a brief history of the opposition to metaphysicism; "Facts and Laws in Human Affairs" treats of the uniformities noticeable among the diverse isolated facts of history; "Nietzsche and Tragedy" discusses the light thrown on Nietzsche's personality by his "Origin of Tragedy" recently translated into Italian; "A Successor of Pascal" is the French Priest Laberthonnière; then follow "The Magician of the North" (J. G. Hamann); "Franciscan Studies," a review of a book by F. Tocco; "The Circulation of Italian Thought"; "B. Croce and his Philosophy of Practice"; "Delacroix and his Studies in Mysticism"; "*Le Philosophie Inconnu*"; "The Greatest Problems of Varisco" and "Maschi's Conception of Religion."

GÉOLOGIE NOUVELLE. Théorie chimique de la formation de la terre et des roches terrestres. Par *Henri Lenicque*. Paris: Hermann, 1910. Pp. 263. Price 7 francs.

Henry Lenicque has published a new work on the new geology, which is a chemical theory of the formation of the earth and its rocks. The book is well illustrated and elucidates the ideas of the author by appropriate diagrams. By "new geology," M. Lenique understands a conception of the formation of the earth which is neither the theory of the Neptunists nor of the Plutonists, but one which would explain the rock formation from the laws of chemistry. The author follows in the main the authority of M. Adhémer, a Frenchman who is perhaps not much known outside of France.

The book is prefaced by a critical letter of M. Philippe Bunau-Varilla, a prominent French engineer.

LA MORPHOLOGIE DYNAMIQUE. Par *Frédéric Houssay*. Paris: Hermann, 1910. Pp. 29. Price 1.50 fr.

Prof. Frederic Houssay of the Sorbonne in Paris has published this little pamphlet as the first number of a "Collection on Dynamic Morphology," and it is noticeable with what clearness he insists on the difference of substance and form in all the sciences, a difference which we ourselves have always insisted on. He starts with a quotation from Prof. A. Dastre who says: "In many things, we must distinguish form and contents, figure and substance." In the second chapter he discusses the artificial opposition between morphology and physiology; in the third, their fundamental identities. The fourth chapter is devoted to the energetic and static aspects of these sciences. Then he discusses the cinematic and dynamic function of physiology, and finally the possibilities in a further development of dynamic morphology. κ

LIFE AS REALITY. A Philosophical Essay by *Arthur Stone Dewing*. London: Longmans, 1910. Pp. 214. Price \$1.25 net.

Mr. Dewing has studied philosophy under Professor Royce to whom he dedicates this volume. He advocates a system of idealism which would give full value to the strivings of the personal will "without degenerating into crude individualism." He believes that reality is "revealed directly through the impulses, the strivings, the purposes of our life and only indirectly through the vast world of objects. . . . It is in the effort and not at the goal that we must search for the real." The author outlines the method of his work in the preface. He has followed the method of trial and error in this search. After stating the problem of the final reality in the opening chapter, he inquires what the material world and science have to offer by way of solution. Later the problem shifts to the realm of the moral law, to society, to religious experience, and to the various conceptions of philosophic truth, culminating in the eighth chapter which bears the title of the whole. He acknowledges his debt to "The whole idealistic trend of our modern world" and especially "to the imperial genius of Kant." ρ